

From: Van Secrist
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/20/01 3:32pm
Subject: Make MS carry a JVM

Dear Sirs,

I am an entrepreneur working on a software/web application. I am extremely worried with the current proposed settlement with Microsoft. The company has a long history of squashing any form of competition.

I and many other developers are terrified of Microsoft's wrath. There is a genuine fear in the developer community of getting in Microsoft's gun sights. There are so many loopholes in the current settlement that will allow Microsoft to continuing their lying, cheating, conniving ways. The settlements need to be far more air-tight.

At the very least, there is one huge concession that Microsoft should be forced to make. This concession would increase software availability AND compatibility across multiple platforms. It would also lower the costs of software developers in developing new products, because they could write code once and simply recompile that code for the various platforms. This concession would create a proliferation of software titles on all platforms.

What is this concession? Force Microsoft to bundle a Java Virtual Machine with their shipping OS. Java is a language designed to be platform independent. Microsoft tried to usurp control over the Java language from Sun a couple of years ago. A court ruled that Microsoft violated their contract with Sun by introducing code that would "optimize" Java performance on Windows. In reality, Microsoft "polluted" the Java language and ruined Java compatibility across multiple platforms. But hey, it played great on the PC. Recently, Microsoft said they would NOT support Java at all. Why? Because they see this as a threat to Windows dominance.

To reiterate, forcing Microsoft to distribute the JVM (hell, force them to build support into the OS) would allow developers to write software ONCE. They could then recompile that code to work on Windows, Mac OS, Linux, BeOS and Unix. Imagine writing code one time and having it available to ALL platforms! THAT WOULD REINTRODUCE COMPETITION IN THE SOFTWARE INDUSTRY!

I implore you not to settle on the current terms. Should you wish to discuss this, I am enclosing my contact information. For the record, I have no affiliation with any of Microsoft's competitors.

Sincerely,

Van Secrist
3888 Elderbank Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90031
323.227.9888 (h)
310.917.2584 (w)